

Hello Senator Kitchel:

VSEA has requested a fix to the Medicare advantage amendment.

As passed by the House, the administration could put the 250 +/- active state employees who are Medicare eligible into a Medicare Advantage Plan.

Using that loophole, the administration could then place all retirees into the same Medicare Advantage Plan, because some active state employees would be in it. The statute only requires that retirees receive the same benefits as active employees.

Senate Government Operations chair spoke with Steve Howard and she supports the changes, and asked us to let you know.

Attached are the page numbers and line numbers of the places in the House Budget we request your committee amend in order to fully close the loophole.

In every instance, the edit consists of inserting the phrase: "who are not Medicare eligible"

Page 135

○ Line 10

✦ Insert "who are not Medicare eligible" after the word "employees"

Page 136

○ Line 10

✦ Insert "who are not Medicare eligible" after the word "employees"

○ Line 13

✦ Insert "who are not Medicare eligible" after the word "employees"

Page 137

○ Line 4

✦ Insert "who are not Medicare eligible" after the word "employees"

For reference, you can find the House-passed Budget here:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/BILLS/H-0494/H-0494%20As%20Passed%20by%20the%20House%20Unofficial.pdf>

Thanks much.

Vince Illuzzi